

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11867 052105Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /156 W

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R 051550Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4608

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USINT BAGHDAD

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DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, XF, UR

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER ARAB-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 11770

SUMMARY: "EAGLES"WARNING TO USSR THREATENING ATTACKS

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 11867 052105Z

ON SOV EMBASSIES AND INTERESTS IF EMIGRATION OF

RUSSIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL IS NOT CURTAILED HAS PRODUCED BARRAGE OF DENIALS AND COUNTER-DENIALS, ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS IN LEBANESE AND SYRIAN PRESS. DESPITE SIGNS OF MUTUAL UNHAPPINESS BETWEEN SOVIETS AND THEIR ARAB ALLIES, SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SITUATION WILL DEGENERATE INTO OPEN BREACH. END SUMMARY.

1. PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR ON OCT 5 CARRIED STATEMENT BY "EAGLES OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION" DISOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM OCT 4 WARNING TO USSR (REFTEL) AND DESCRIBING IT AS BOGUS. STATEMENT CONJECTURED "UNKNOWN AUTHORS" OF THAT ANTI-SOV WARNING WERE TRYING TRICK "EAGLES" INTO DISCLOSING THEIR IDENTITY. SAID "EAGLES" ARE "PART OF LARGE OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION", NOT A NEW, INDEPENDENT ONE. PROMISED THAT HENCEFORTH, IN ORDER AVOID CONFUSION CREATED BY THIS INCIDENT, "EAGLES" WOULD RESTRICT THEIR OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE TO PRO-FEDAYEEN MUHARRIR AND LEFTIST, PRO-SYRIAN ASH SHARQ NEWSPAPERS.

2. PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT LATE OCT 4 EXPRESSING "ASTONISHMENT" AT "EAGLES" WARNING TO USSR AND CLAIMING AUTHORS "CANNOT BE PALESTINIANS". STATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USSR AND FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT IS "STRATEGIC" IN NATURE AND BASED ON CONVICTION THAT USSR THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALLY OF WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND THAT SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE TO REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS AND LIBERATE THEIR LAND. PRO-MOSCOW LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY AN NIDA TRIED DISMISS WHOLE ISSUE BY STATING THAT SO-CALLED "ANTI-SOVIET PALESTINIANS" (I.E., AUTHORS OF OCT 4 "EAGLES" STATEMENT) ARE NOT PALESTINIAN AT ALL.

3. VIENNA OPERATION AND OCT 4 "EAGLES" WARNING TO USSR ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE PRESENTED SYRIANS WITH DIFFICULT CHOICE. AL BAATH, MOUTHPIECE OF RULING PARTY IN DAMASCUS, ATTACKED EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS ON OCT 5, AT SAME TIME, ATH THAWRAH, SEMI-OFFICIAL SARG ORGAN, CARRIED LONG ARTICLE ON EXCELLENT STATE OF SOVIET-SYRIAN RELATIONS.

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 11867 052105Z

4. MORE SUPPORT FOR ARAB-SOVIET SOLIDARITY APPEARED HERE OCT 5 IN EXCLUSIVE AN NAHAR AND L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTS OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES AFTER TEN DAYS OF DELIBERATIONS RE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN "AN UNDISCLOSED ARAB COUNTRY" (REPORTEDLY SYRIA). COMMUNIQUE PRAISED SOV-ARAB FRIENDSHIP, ATTACKED SAUDI ARABIAN EFFORTS TO PLAY MORE LEADING ROLE IN ME, AND

STRONGLY CRITICIZED EGYPT'S NEW POLICIES, ESPECIALLY EGYPTIAN-AUDI DETENTE FOR HAVING ADVERSELY AFFECTED ARAB-SOVIET RELATIONS. IT PRAISED NIXON-BREZHNEV MEETING FOR HAVING RELAXED INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE AND BENEFITTED ARAB/PALESTINIAN CAUSE. COMMUNIQUE LAUDED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA, WELCOMED PARTICIPATION OF THEIR COMMUNIST PARTIES IN NATIONAL FRONTS, AND UNDERLINED SOV SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT (PLO) AGAINST "REACTIONARY FORCES" IN AREA YET IT ALSO ENDORSED NEWLY-RECREATED EASTERN ARAB COMMAND AND TREATED JORDAN WITH KIDIGLOVES. THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF SYRIAN-SOMFET TENSIONS IN COMMUNIQUE. COMMUNIST PARTIES ATTENDING WERE THOSE OF ALGERIA, SUDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAQ AND JORDAN. (FULL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE WILL BE REPORTED AND ANALYZED IN SUBSEQUENT AIRGRAM.)

5. COMMENT: VIENNA OPERATION AND PLETHORA OF CONFLICTING STATEMENTS ABOUT IT APPEARING HERE SEEM TO HAVE OPENED PANDORA'S BOX OF CONTROVERSY RE SOVIET-ARAB RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND JEWISH EMIGRATION IN PARTICULAR. SITUATION IS ONE IN WHICH FEDAYEEN AND OTHER ARABS APPEAR TORN BETWEEN CRITICIZING AND PRAISING USSR, WHILE SOVS ARE LARDING THEIR CONTINUED PROTESTATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN AND "PROGRESSIVE" ARAB STATES WITH SOTTO VOICE COMPLAINTS ABOUT ARAB INEPTNESS AND INGRATITUDE. DESPITE CLEAR SIGNS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE UNHAPPY WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF EACH OTHER'S BEHAVIOR, WE EXPECT THEY WILL BE CAREFUL TO AVOID LETTING THIS DEGENERATE INTO OPEN BREACH.

DECON 10/5/74.

BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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